

Reply to Office Action dated 15 September 2004**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] As shown in FIG. 3, the phase tare surfaces 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84 may lie in planes that are essentially parallel to the propagation direction of the input beam 14. In FIG. 3, the surfaces of the micro-wedges located behind the cross sectional line 3-3 are not shown for the sake of clarity of illustration. In other words, FIG. 3 represents only a thin slice of the optical device 16 taken along line 3-3. The slice illustrates a smooth regularly shaped exterior surface upon which the light beam 14 is incident and an irregularly shaped exterior output surface out of which beam portions 46 and 48 are transmitted.